



# Indiana Coalition to **End Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking**

Engage. Educate. Empower.

## Identifying and Supporting Human Trafficking Survivors: The Role of Housing Providers

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ICESAHT

# ICESAHT

**Mission:** ICESAHT empowers Indiana communities to prevent sexual assault and human trafficking, and serve those impacted by it through comprehensive training, advocacy, increased public awareness and coordinated services.

**Vision:** To position Indiana as a nationally recognized leader in shifting culture, supporting survivors, and strengthening communities to prevent and end sexual assault and human trafficking.

## What We Do:

- Public education and raise public awareness about SA/HT using primary prevention
- Actively engage with state legislators about public policy affecting survivors of SA/HT, service providers, and healthcare professionals
- Promote and advocate for the expansion of services
- Assist in building the capacity of community organizations, service providers and other allies to help survivors and their families throughout Indiana

# ICESAHT's Anti-Trafficking Initiatives

- **Training Seminars**
  - Rape Crisis Centers, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), Child Advocacy Center MDTs, and Others
- **Technical Assistance**
  - Best practices
  - Resource/ service connections and coordination
- **State Task Force**
  - Co-Chair IPATH Taskforce alongside the U.S. Attorney's Office for Southern District of Indiana

# IPATH – A Collaborative Approach to HT



# Housing Providers' Role: Prevention, Identification, and Meeting Needs



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# HUD Categories of Homelessness

- Category 1: Literally Homeless
- Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes
- Category 4: Fleeing / Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence (includes dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous and life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against an individual. .  
.including human trafficking

(HUD Exchange: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-4/>)

# Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program: The Need for Collaboration

The four eligible populations for EHV's:

1. Homeless
2. At-risk of homelessness
3. Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or **human trafficking**; and
4. Recently homeless, as determined by the Secretary, and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability

Most anti-trafficking service providers are not housing providers and not connected to public housing authorities / CoCs or familiar with voucher process; public housing authorities and CoCs lack familiarity with human trafficking.

(“Homeless System Response: Emergency Housing Vouchers: Partnerships for EHV's”, HUD)

# Presentation Objectives

- Define human trafficking under Federal and Indiana Law
- Understand the overlap between homelessness and human trafficking
- Learn the dynamics of human trafficking and why victims don't often self-identify or seek help
- Understand the importance of a survivor-centered response to serving trafficked populations
- Identify local and state resources



# Language

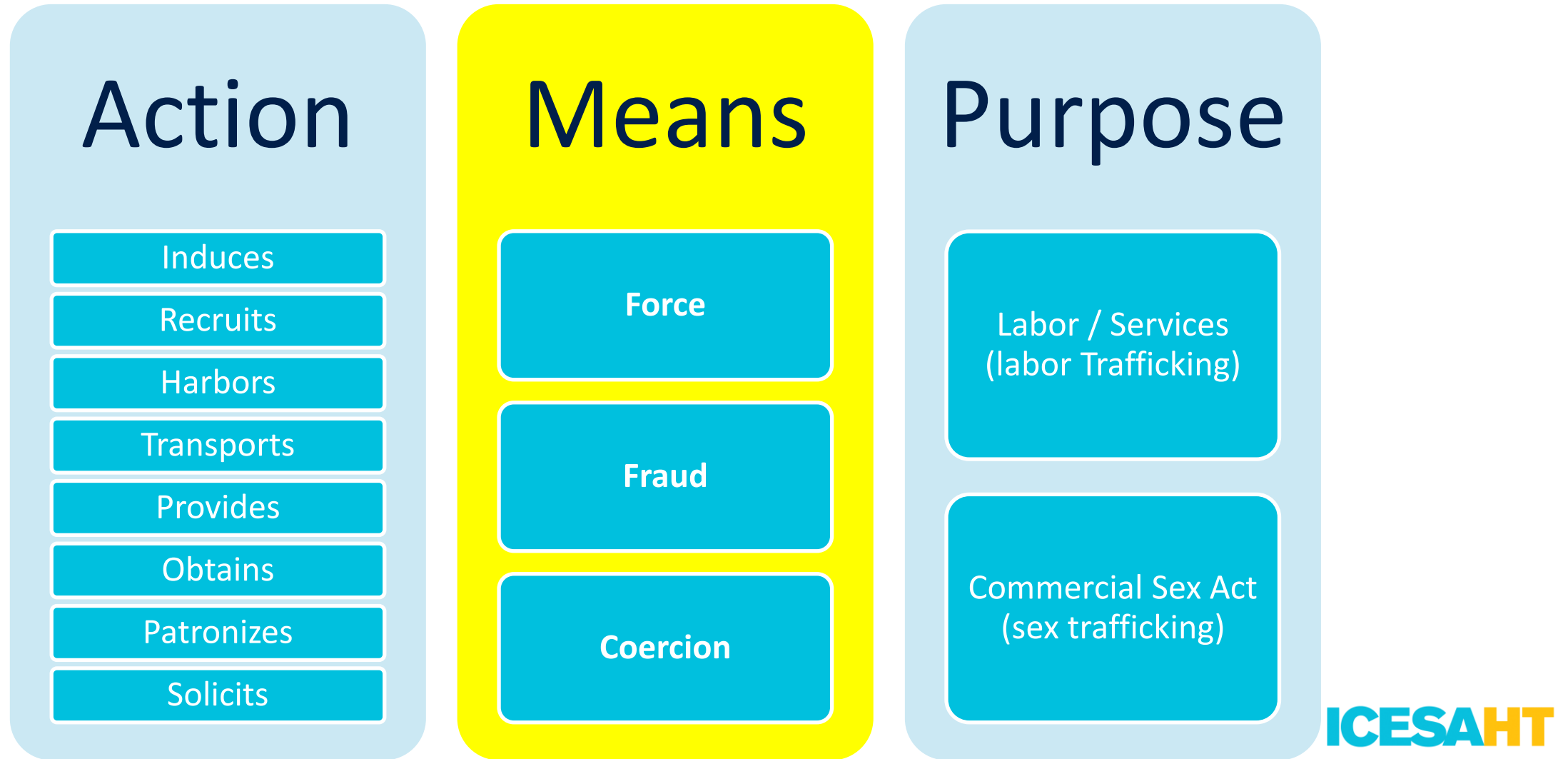
**“Victim” vs. “Survivor”**

# Federal Law

- **Sex trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; (and)
- **Labor trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S. Ch. 78; reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2017, and 2018

# A-M-P Model



*(Polaris Project, 2012)*

# Means

## Force

Beating and slapping

Burning

Sexual assault

Rape and gang rape

Confinement

Initiation

Torture practices

## Fraud

False promises

Deceitful enticement

Withholding wages

Blackmail/extortion

Lying about work conditions

Preying on desperation

## Coercion

Threats of serious harm

Intimidation

Humiliation

Emotional abuse

Controlling daily life skills

Establishing quotas

Climate of fear

# Indiana Law

## IC 35-45-4-2, IC 35-42-3.5-1 – IC 35-42-3.5-4

- Individuals under the age of 18 cannot be arrested for prostitution (there's no such thing as an underage prostitute!)
- Force, threat of force, fraud, coercion do not need to be proven when a minor is trafficked for commercial sex.
- It is not a defense to *Promotion of Child Sexual Trafficking* that a minor consented to participate in prostitution or sexual conduct
- Buyers can be charged with human trafficking whether or not they knew the individual they purchased was a human trafficking victim

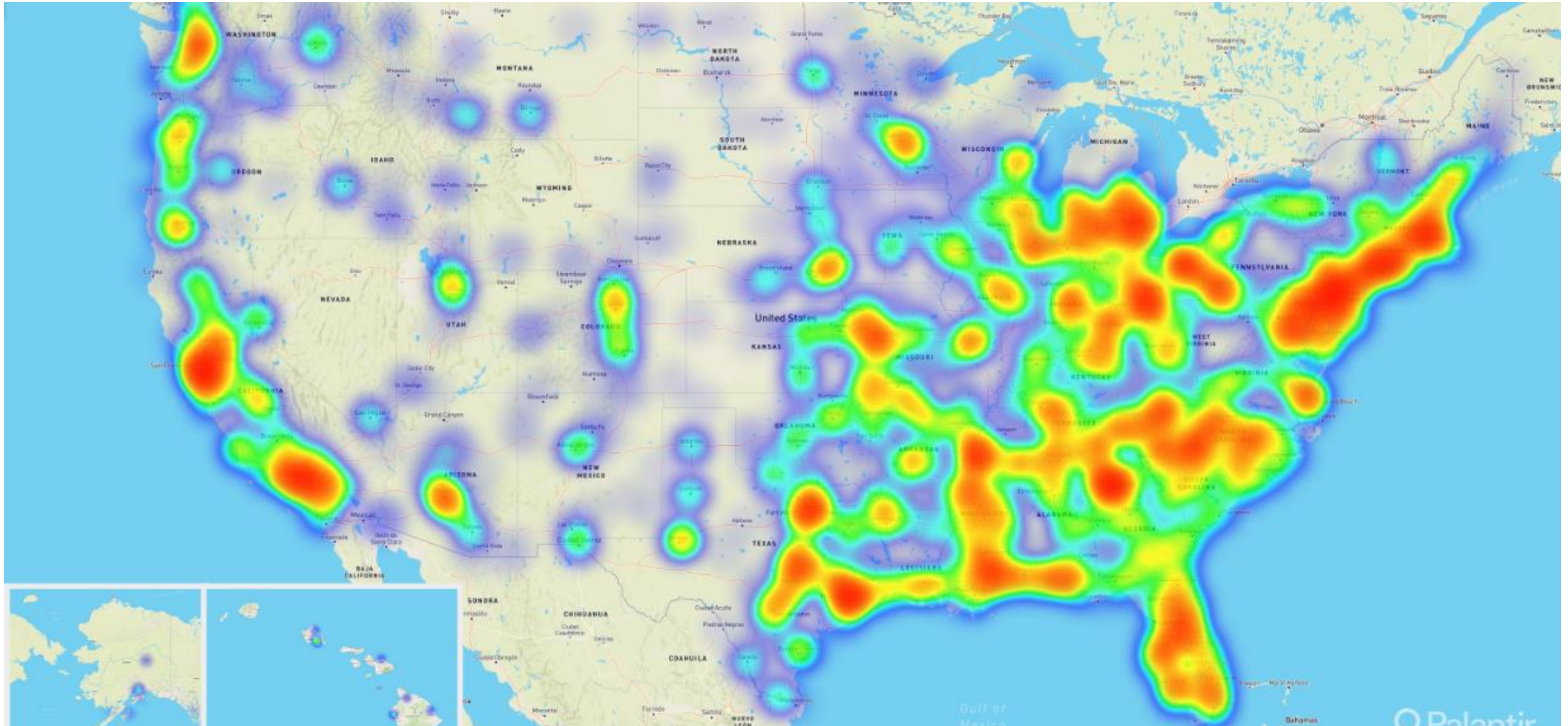
# Indiana Law (cont.)

## Definitions:

**IC 35-42-3.5-0.5(b)** As used in this chapter, "**force**", "**threat of force**", "**coercion**", or "**fraud**" means but is not limited to a person:

- (1) causing or threatening to cause physical harm to a human trafficking victim;
- (2) physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain a human trafficking victim;
- (3) abusing or threatening to abuse the law or legal process to further the act of human trafficking;
- (4) knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government identification document of the human trafficking victim;
- (5) using blackmail or threatening to cause financial harm for the purpose of exercising financial control over the human trafficking victim; or
- (6) facilitating or controlling a human trafficking victim's access to a controlled substance.

# Does It Really Happen Here?



Polaris, 2020

# Indiana Statistics

- Since its inception, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has identified **1,017** cases of human trafficking. **2,344** victims were identified in these cases. (2007-2021)
- No unified state database
- Human trafficking of minors is a mandatory call to the DCS Hotline



# Intersection of Homelessness and Human Trafficking

**64%** of survivors were homeless or in unstable housing when recruited into a trafficking situation.

*--“On-ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking”, Polaris, July 2018*

**“68%** of youth who had either been trafficked or engaged in survival sex had done so while homeless. What’s more, 22% of youth were approached for paid sex on their first night of homelessness.”

*--Research through multiple studies, Covenant House website, 2022*

# Barriers to Identification & Engagement

- Trafficker has strong psychological or physical control
  - Survivor trusted someone who lied to them; still hopeful the situation will improve
  - May have nowhere else to go
  - Believes they have a real debt to pay and takes this very seriously
  - Doesn't know their legal rights and/or has been lied to about their rights
  - Isolated - no meaningful social network, language barriers
- Embarrassed about what is happening to them
  - Afraid of detainment or deportation
  - Existing distrust of law enforcement
  - Their documents have been taken or have expired
  - This current exploitative situation is “better” than the one they came from
  - Can't see a way out; threatened or real danger to family back home

# Human Trafficking Power & Control Wheel

This wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel.  
Copyright: Polaris Project, 2010



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# Biases: How are we perceiving someone?

## “Prostitute”

- 50% of first-time arrestees for prostitution met the federal definition as victims of human trafficking

*Cite: Carpenter, A. & Gates, J. (2016). The Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego County. Accessed at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249857.pdf>*

## “Drug Addict”

- 84.3% of survivors used alcohol, drugs, or both during their captivity and more than a quarter (27.9%) said that forced substance use was a part of their trafficking experience. Alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine were the most common substances.

*Cite: Lederer, L. & Wetzel, C. (2014). The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities. Annals of Health Law 23, 61-91.*

## “Illegal Immigrant”

- 71 percent of the victims held some type of nonimmigrant visa status when they entered the United States

*Cite: C. Owens, M. Dank, J. Breaux, I. Banuelos, R. Heitsmith (2014). “Understanding the Organization, Operation, and Victimization Process of Labor Trafficking in the United States”*

# Survivor-Centered Response



## Putting the Survivor at the Center

- Nonjudgmental and respectful
- Listen to what the survivor says they need vs. what you think they need
- Acknowledge their unique needs and tailor services to meet those needs
- Give choices
- Cultural sensitivity and humility
- Ongoing communication



## Trauma-Informed Services

- Safety planning
- What are immediate needs
- Ongoing needs



## Listen and Learn from Survivors

# Immediate Needs

*“First, of course, I need to have someone to talk to. I need to have someone to trust. In my situation I did not know who to trust. Whatever I say—what is deep, what I feel—I keep to myself because I don’t want it to turn around and hurt me later. Not sure what kind of influence the person has”*

*-quote from survivor*

*as cited in Aron, Zweig, & Newmark, 2006*



1. Transportation



2. Safety plan



3. Food, clothing,  
personal hygiene items



4. Acute medical care



5. Translators/interpretive services as  
needed

# Ongoing Needs



1. Mental health care



2. Civil or criminal protections



3. Education and Employment



4. Affordable & ethical medical care



5. Life skills and case management

1. Trauma-informed techniques like: EMDR, somatic experiencing, polyvagal theory

2. Legal needs: expungements, vacatur, restitution, protective orders, etc.

3. Helping clients find programs that are accessible and jobs that accept people w/criminal records

4. Gender affirming, staff knowledgeable about reproductive coercion

5. Re-entry is similar to civilian life after combat; separating from culture of violence. Look for reputable, survivor-centered organizations

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# Collaborative Care to Meet Service Needs

## Safety / Immediate Needs

- Safety planning  
(<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/safety-planning-information>)
- Connect w/ victim advocate as soon as possible  
(rape crisis centers provide 24/7 crisis response)
- Protection shall be provided to victim by law enforcement if their safety is at risk **IC 35-42-3.5-4**
- **IN 211**

## Trauma-Informed Providers

- Recovery Works
- ITVAP Service providers: specialize in trauma and/or HT survivors for individuals up to 24 y.o.

## Consider Needs of Marginalized Populations

- LGBTQ+
- BIPOC
- Individuals w/ disabilities
- Foreign-Nationals



# Agency Review

1. Does your agency have written procedures for working with human trafficking survivors?
2. Does your agency advertise services to survivors of human trafficking?
3. What type of training do you feel your agency needs to effectively serve HT survivors?
4. Have you knowingly worked with HT survivors before? What was that process like?

# Potential Community Partners

- Community Leaders
- Service Providers
- Victim Advocates
- Mentors
- Schools
- Donors/Philanthropists
- Law Enforcement
- Child Protective Services
- Healthcare

# Red flag examples

Signs of complex trauma

Injuries, bruises, burns, or other wounds

Inability to access healthcare/ongoing illness

Work-related injuries

Lack of knowledge about where they are

Someone else has control over identity documents

Not in control of their own money

Someone insists on speaking for the victim; scripted language

Possession of multiple cellphones, hotel keys, marbles, poker chips

Engaged in commercial sex

Residing in unsuitable living conditions

Person is threatened with detainment, deportation, or family violence

Not allowed to leave their place of work

Asks for permission to eat, sleep, use toilet

Not paid for their services, or only paid in tips

Tattoos of names of strange scars, "branding"

# Reporting

Immediate danger: **call 911**

If you suspect a minor is being trafficked:

**Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (mandatory)**

**1-800-800-5556**, use the term “human trafficking

If you suspect an adult is being exploited and is endangered (i.e., incapable by reason of mental illness, intellectual disability, dementia, habitual drunkenness, excessive drug use, or other physical or mental incapacity, of managing or directing the management of the individual’s property or providing self-care):

**Indiana Adult Protective Services Hotline (mandatory)**

**1-800-992-69787**

# **National Human Trafficking Hotline**

**1-888-373-7888**

# Other Resources

Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking:  
<https://icesaht.org/>

Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program:  
<https://indysb.org/itvap/resources/>

Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Taskforce (IPATH): <https://icesaht.org/what-we-do/human-trafficking/ipath/>

Indiana Legal Services: <https://www.indianalegalservices.org/>

Freedom Network Housing Project:  
<https://freedomnetworkusa.org/training/housing-project/>

# Questions?

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